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EXAMINER

QIAN, SONGWEI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2109

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/19/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 04/19/2007.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/759,774

Applicant(s)

BARTHAM ET AL.

Examiner

Songwei Qian

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-88 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-88 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-88 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 67-88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

4. In claims 67 and 88, the claims are intended to embrace both product or machine and process is precluded by language of 35 USC 101, which sets forth statutory classes of invention in alternative only.

5. In claims 67 and 88, "A programmed computer apparatus" is being recited; however, it appears that the apparatus would reasonably be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art as software, per se. The only four elements positively recited as part of the apparatus are the "inputting", "selecting", and "modifying". It appears that these elements would reasonably be interpreted as representative of the software. As

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such, it believed that the apparatus of claims 67 and 88 is reasonably interpreted as software, per se.

6. As for claims 68-87, they are dependent on claim 67.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 67-88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

9. As for claims 67 and 88, the claims which purport to be both product or machine and process are ambiguous and therefore do not particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter of invention.

10. As for claims 68-87, they are dependent on claim 67.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

12. Claims 1-12, 16, 21-34, 38, 43-56, 60, 65-78, 82, and 87-88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Davis et al. (US Pat. #: 5,742,829), hereinafter Davis.

13. As for claim 1. Davis discloses:

A method (Systems Management Server (SMS), Col. 3, Lines 42-43) for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, comprising:

inputting selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) including the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "inputting selection information" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)" or "Input From Administrator (403)");

inputting management information (the local computer, Col. 12, Lines 40-41, add a program, FIG. 4, and the program list, Col. 9, Line 10) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "inputting management information" is done through "Logon Script Invoked

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(502)" or "Input From Administrator (403)");

selecting at least one of the plurality of computers (client computer, Col. 11, Line 46; note that "client computer" means "local computer") based on selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "selecting" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)"); and

modifying the at least one selected computer based on the management information (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B, and the client setup executable 354 accesses the domain initialization file 356 to retrieve a current list of software ("the program list") to be loaded onto the client and utilizes the copy list 358 to load the software, Col. 9, Lines 8-11; note that "the client" here means "the local computer" with user characteristic).

14. As for claim 22, Davis discloses:

A method (Systems Management Server (SMS), Col. 3, Lines 42-43) for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, comprising:

inputting selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) including one of the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user) and a computer characteristic

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(configuration information of the local computer) into a selected computer (local computer) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "inputting selection information" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)");

transmitting the selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user) to a managing computer (client server) (Fig. 2, Col. 8, Lines 63-65, and Col. 9, Lines 8-12);

searching in a database (domain initialization file) for the selection information and management information (program list) associated with the selection information (Col. 9, Lines 8-12); and

modifying the selected computer based on the management information (Col. 9, Lines 8-12).

15. As for claim 23, Davis discloses:

A computer recording medium including computer executable code (Systems Management Server (SMS), Col. 3, Lines 42-43) for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, the computer recording medium comprising:

code for inputting selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) including the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B;

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note that "inputting selection information" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)" or "Input From Administrator (403)";

code for inputting management information (the local computer, Col. 12, Lines 40-41, add a program, FIG. 4, and the program list, Col. 9, Line 10) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "inputting management information" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)" or "Input From Administrator (403)");

code for selecting at least one of the plurality of computers (client computer, Col. 11, Line 46; note that "client computer" means "local computer") based on the selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "selecting" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)"); and

code for modifying the at least one selected computer based on the management information (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B, and the client setup executable 354 accesses the domain initialization file 356 to retrieve a current list of software ("the program list") to be loaded onto the client and utilizes the copy list 358 to load the software, Col. 9, Lines 8-11; note that "the client" here means "the local computer" with user characteristic).

16. As for claim 44, Davis discloses:

A computer recording medium including computer executable code (Systems Management Server (SMS), Col. 3, Lines 42-43) for managing a plurality of computers,

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at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic; the computer recording medium comprising:

code for inputting selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) including one of the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user) and a computer characteristic (configuration information of the local computer) into a selected computer (local computer) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "inputting selection information" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)");

code for transmitting the selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user) to a managing computer (client server) (Fig. 2, Col. 8, Lines 63-65, and Col. 9, Lines 8-12);

code for searching in a database (domain initialization file) for the selection information and management information (program list) associated with the selection information (Col. 9, Lines 8-12); and

code for modifying the selected computer based on the management information (Col. 9, Lines 8-12).

17. As for claim 45, Davis discloses:

A programmed computer system (Systems Management Server (SMS), Col. 3, Lines 42-43) for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of

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computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, tile programmed computer system residing on a computer-readable medium and comprising instructions for causing a computer to perform the following operations:

inputting selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) including the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "inputting selection information" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)" or "Input From Administrator (403)");

inputting management information (the local computer, Col. 12, Lines 40-41, add a program, FIG. 4, and the program list, Col. 9, Line 10) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "inputting management information" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)" or "Input From Administrator (403)");

selecting at least one of the plurality of computers (client computer, Col. 11, Line 46; note that "client computer" means "local computer") based on selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "selecting" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)"); and

modifying the at least one selected computer based on the management information (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B, and the client setup executable 354 accesses the domain initialization file 356 to retrieve a current list of software ("the

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program list") to be loaded onto the client and utilizes the copy list 358 to load the software, Col. 9, Lines 8-11; note that "the client" here means "the local computer" with user characteristic).

18. As for claim 66, Davis discloses:

A programmed computer system (Systems Management Server (SMS), Col. 3, Lines 42-43) for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, the programmed computer system residing on a computer-readable medium and comprising instructions for causing a computer to perform the following operations:

input selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) including one of the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user) and a computer characteristic (configuration information of the local computer) into a selected computer (local computer) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "inputting selection information" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)");

transmit the selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user) to a managing computer (client server) (Fig. 2, Col. 8, Lines 63-65, and Col. 9, Lines 8-12);

search in a database (domain initialization file) for the selection information

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and management information (program list) associated with the selection information (Col. 9, Lines 8-12); and

modify the selected computer based on the management information (Col. 9, Lines 8-12).

19. As for claim 67, Davis discloses:

A programmed computer apparatus (Systems Management Server (SMS), Col. 3, Lines 42-43) for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, the programmed computer apparatus performing steps comprising:

inputting selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) including the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "inputting selection information" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)" or "Input From Administrator (403)");

inputting management information (the local computer, Col. 12, Lines 40-41, add a program, FIG. 4, and the program list, Col. 9, Line 10) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "inputting management information" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)" or "Input From Administrator (403)");

selecting at least one of the plurality of computers (client computer, Col. 11, Line 46; note that "client computer" means "local computer") based on selection

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information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "selecting" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)"); and

modifying the at least one selected computer based on the management information (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B, and the client setup executable 354 accesses the domain initialization file 356 to retrieve a current list of software ("the program list") to be loaded onto the client and utilizes the copy list 358 to load the software, Col. 9, Lines 8-11; note that "the client" here means "the local computer" with user characteristic).

20. As for claim 88, Davis discloses:

A programmed computer apparatus (Systems Management Server (SMS), Col. 3, Lines 42-43) for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, the programmed computer apparatus performing steps comprising:

inputting selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) including the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "inputting selection information" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)" or "Input From Administrator (403)");

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inputting management information (the local computer, Col. 12, Lines 40-41, add a program, FIG. 4, and the program list, Col. 9, Line 10) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "inputting management information" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)" or "Input From Administrator (403)");

selecting at least one of the plurality of computers (client computer, Col. 11, Line 46; note that "client computer" means "local computer") based on selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B; note that "selecting" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)"); and

modifying the at least one selected computer based on the management information (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B, and the client setup executable 354 accesses the domain initialization file 356 to retrieve a current list of software ("the program list") to be loaded onto the client and utilizes the copy list 358 to load the software, Col. 9, Lines 8-11; note that "the client" here means "the local computer" with user characteristic).

21. As for claims 2, 24, 46, and 68, Davis discloses:

selecting includes identifying at least one of the plurality of computers (client computer, Col. 11, Line 46; note that "client computer" here means "local computer") associated with the user (the current user) having the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) (Fig.

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4 and 5A; note that "identifying" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)" or "Input From Administrator (403)").

22. As for claims 3, 25, 47, and 69, Davis discloses:

the selection information further includes a computer characteristic (configuration information of the local computer, Col. 12, Lines 40-41), and selecting includes identifying at least one of the plurality of computers (client computer, Col. 11, Line 46; note that "client computer" means "local computer") having the computer characteristic (configuration information of the local computer) (Fig. 4 and 5A; note that "identifying" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)" or "Input From Administrator (403)").

23. As for claims 4, 26, 48, and 70, Davis discloses:

the selection information further includes a computer characteristic (configuration information of the local computer, Col. 12, Lines 40-41), and selecting includes identifying at least one of the plurality of computers (client computer, Col. 11, Line 46; note that "client computer" means "local computer") having the computer characteristic (configuration information of the local computer) and the at least one of the plurality of computers (the local computer) is associated with the user (the end user of the client computer; note that "client computer" means "local computer") having the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) (Fig. 4 and 5A; note that "identifying" is done through "Logon Script Invoked (502)" or "Input From Administrator (403)").

24. As for claims 5, 27, 49, and 71, Davis discloses:

selecting and modifying are performed when the user becomes newly associated with at least one of the plurality of computers (FIG. 5A and The client setup executable 354 accesses the domain initialization file 356 to retrieve a current list of software ("the program list") to be loaded onto the client and utilizes the copy list 358 to load the software, Col. 9, Lines 8-11; note that "the client" here means "the local computer" with user characteristic).

25. As for claims 6, 28, 50, and 72, Davis discloses:

selecting and modifying are performed when the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) is one of changed and added (In automatically installing software on the client computers, the preferred embodiment performs this installation when the natural language of the client computer changes between logons, the operating system of the client computer changes between logons, Col. 11, Lines 37-41) (Note that "the natural language of the client computer changes" and "the operating system of the client computer changes" are considered change of user configuration).

26. As for claims 7, 29, 51, and 73, the claim "wherein the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user for the current user, Col. 12, Line 41) is related to an employment function of the user", is inherently derived

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from the way user ID and user configuration is created. Inside an organization, user ID and user configuration is created based on employment function of the user and allows the user to use certain functions of a computer where the user logs in.

27. As for claims 8, 30, 52, and 74, Davis discloses:

the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user) is at least one of a user group and a geographic identifier (Site, FIG. 1) (Note that a user always belongs to a site or a user group).

28. As for claims 9, 31, 53, and 75, Davis discloses:

the selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is related to a function of at least one of the plurality of computers (configuration information of the local computer, Col. 12, Lines 40-41; note that configuration information of a computer is related to an operating system running on the computer).

29. As for claims 10, 32, 54, and 76, Davis discloses:

the selection information (Site, FIG. 1, the current user, and configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) further includes a computer characteristic (configuration

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information of the local computer, Col. 12, Lines 40-41, and the computer characteristic is at least one of a group, a geographic identifier (Site, FIG. 1), and configuration information (configuration information of the local computer and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41).

30. As for claims 11, 33, 55, and 77, Davis discloses:

modifying includes transmitting software to the at least one selected computer from a software database (the site server 202 stores software that can be installed on other computers in the distributed system, Col. 5, Lines 56-58), and installing the software on the at least one selected computer (FIG. 5A).

31. As for claims 12, 34, 56, and 78, Davis discloses:

the management information ((the local computer, Col. 12, Lines 40-41, add a program, FIG. 4, and the program list, Col. 9, Line 10) includes a software identifier (the program list, Col. 9, Line 10) and an action (add a program) to be performed on the at least one selected computer (the local computer) (FIG. 5A).

32. As for claims 16, 38, 60, and 82, Davis discloses:

modifying a computer based on the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) that is one of stored in a database (SQL Server, FIG. 2) and entered into the at least one selected computer by the user (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B, and the client setup executable 354

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accesses the domain initialization file 356 to retrieve the program list ("the program list") to be loaded onto the client and utilizes the copy list 358 to load the software, Col. 9, Lines 8-11; note that "the client" here means "the local computer" with user characteristic).

33. As for claims 21, 43, 65, and 87, Lubanski discloses:

checking newly inputted management information against the management information for a conflict (if the program list differs from what is actually installed on a client, during the process of logging onto the client server, the preferred embodiment will make what is actually loaded on the client conform to the program list, Col. 9, Lines 21-23).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

34. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

35. Claims 13, 35, 57, and 79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis in view of Aronberg et al. (US Pat. #: 5,933,647), hereinafter "Aronberg".

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36. As for claims 13, 35, 57, and 79, although Davis discloses:

the management information (the local computer, Col. 12, Lines 40-41, add a program, FIG. 4, and the program list, Col. 9, Line 10) includes at least one of the plurality of computers (client computer, Col. 11, Line 46; note that "client computer" means "local computer") associated with the user, at least one installation (the program list, Col. 9, Line 10) associated with the user, and at least one task (add a program) associated with the user;

but Davis does not explicitly disclose:

displaying the management information associated with the user.

However, Aronberg discloses:

displaying the management information associated with the user (FIG. 3-6 and FIG. 9-10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Davis with the teachings of Aronberg by displaying the management information associated with the user in order to give the user (Note that the user here means an administrator) total control over what events will take place (Aronberg, Col. 1, Lines 30-31).

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37. Claims 14-15, 17-19, 36-37, 39-41, 58-59, 61-63, 80-81, and 83-85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis in view of Lubanski et al. (Mike Lubanski and Darshan Doshi, "SMS 2 Administration", SAMS, February 2000), hereinafter "Lubanski".

38. As for claims 14, 36, 58, and 80, David does not explicitly disclose:
displaying information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

However, Lubanski discloses:

displaying information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user (browse the hardware and software inventory of a machine and the product-compliance details of software on machines, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 12 of 14, Lines 21-22).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Davis with the teachings of Lubanski by displaying information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user in order to distribute and manage software as well as to track the software's usage (Chapter 1, Section: The Need for Desktop and Software Management, Page 3 of 4, Lines 34-35).

39. As for claims 15, 37, 59, and 81, David does not explicitly disclose:

providing a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

However, Lubanski discloses:

providing a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user (Resource Explorer is used to browse the hardware and software inventory of a machine and the product-compliance details of software on machines, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 12 of 14, Line 21).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Davis with the teachings of Lubanski by providing a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user in order to distribute and manage software as well as to track the software's usage (Chapter 1, Section: The Need for Desktop and Software Management, Page 3 of 4, Lines 34-35).

40. As for claims 17, 39, 61, and 83, David does not explicitly disclose:

storing at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic in an external database.

However, Lubanski discloses:

storing at least one of a computer characteristic (Resource Domain, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Pages 2-3 of 14, Figure 2.2) and the user characteristic (Account Domain, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Pages 2-3 of 14, Figure 2.2) in an external database (SQL database) (SMS uses the SQL database as an engine and storage facility for its data, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 5 of 14, Line 6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Davis with the teachings of Lubanski by storing at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic in an external database in order to provide the information necessary for SMS to perform its other functions, such as software distribution or remote control (Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 5 of 14, Lines 9-10)

41. As for claims 18, 40, 62, and 84, David does not explicitly disclose:

interfacing with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

However, Lubanski discloses:

interfacing with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic (Resource Domain, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Pages 2-3 of 14, Figure 2.2) and the user characteristic (Account Domain, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Pages 2-3 of 14, Figure 2.2) (SMS uses the SQL database as an engine and storage facility for its data, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 5 of 14, Line 6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Davis with the teachings of Lubanski by interfacing with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic in order to provide the information necessary for SMS to perform its other functions, such as software distribution or remote control (Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 5 of 14, Lines 9-10).

42. As for claims 19, 41, 63, and 85, David does not explicitly disclose:

populating an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data.

However, Lubanski discloses:

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populating an external database (SQL database) including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data (Chapter 8, Section: Discovery and Discovery Methods, Page 1 of 16, Lines 17-18, and Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 12 of 14 , Lines 1-5) (Note that SMS uses the SQL database as an engine and storage facility for its data, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 5 of 14, Line 6; all discovered resources are stored in SQL database).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Davis with the teachings of Lubanski by populating an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data in order to provide the information necessary for SMS to perform its other functions, such as software distribution or remote control (Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 5 of 14, Lines 9-10).

43. Claims 20, 42, 64, and 86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis in view of Brovick et al. (Edgar Brovick, Doug Hauger, and William C. Wade III, "Windows 2000 Active Directory", SAMS, February 2000), hereinafter "Brovick".

44. As for claims 20, 42, 64, and 86, David does not explicitly disclose:

populating a target database with data from an external database, the data including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

However, Brovick discloses:

populating a target database (DC) with data from an external database (DC) (replicate the directory data between the DCs, Chapter 10, Section: Replication, Page 1 of 8, Line 12), the data including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic (critical information about computer networks, users, and groups in a single data store, Chapter 2, Page 1 of 9, Line 39).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Davis with the teachings of Brovick by populating a target database with data from an external database in order to provide quick and efficient directory services to clients across the enterprise (Chapter 10, Section: Replication, Page 1 of 8, Line 9).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Songwei Qian whose telephone number is 571-270-

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1910. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (alternative Friday off 8:00am thru 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nabil El-Hady can be reached on 571-272-3963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SQ
04/02/2007


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